

REMARKS

Claims 12 and 50 are objected to, and claims 1, 3-11, 13-27, 29-33, 35, 36, 41, 44-49 and 51-59 are allowed. Applicant has canceled claim 63 and has amended claims 12, 50 and 60-62. Claims 12 and 50 have been amended to obviate an objection, so these claims should be passed to allowance. Claims 1, 3-27, 29-33, 35-36, 41 and 44-63 are presented for examination.

Claims 60-63 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP 61-076634 (JP '634) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,161,972 ("Matsui"). Claim 63 has been canceled, and claims 60-62 have been amended to recite a medical device selected from the group consisting of forceps, a clamp, a needle, scissors, a scalpel, a cutting element for a medical balloon, a hip stem, a knee tray, a vascular filter, and a guidewire.

Neither JP '634 nor Matsui discloses or suggests the claimed medical devices. It appears that JP '634 is directed to a platinum alloy for jewelry applications and does not disclose or suggest that the alloy can be used for medical devices. Matsui is directed to alloys that can be used to fix a denture to a root cap, in particular, using magnetic retention. Matsui does not disclose or suggest that its alloy can be used for the claimed medical devices, and it is not clear how magnetic retention would be applicable to the claimed medical devices. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons presented above, Applicant believes the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

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Page : 11 of 11

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Enclosed is a Petition for Extension of Time and the fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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